

# Sumi language

**Sema**, also **Sumi**, is a Sino-Tibetan language spoken in Nagaland, India. It is spoken by the Sumi Naga people.<sup>[3][4]</sup>

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## Geographical distribution

Sumi is spoken in central and southern Nagaland, in Zunheboto district, Kohima district, Mokokchung district, and Tuensang district, as well as in 7 villages of Tinsukia district, Assam (*Ethnologue*).

## Dialects

*Ethnologue* lists the following dialects of Sema.

- Dayang (Western Sumi)
- Lazami
- Jimomi
- Zumomi

## Phonology

The transcriptions in this section use the International Phonetic Alphabet.

### Vowels

The vowels of Sema are as follows:<sup>[5][6]</sup>

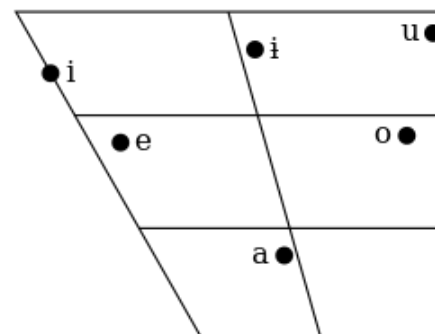
	<u>Front</u>	<u>Central</u>	<u>Back</u>
<u>Close</u>	<span>i</span>	<span>ɨ</span>	<span>u</span>
<u>Mid</u>	<span>e</span>		<span>o</span>
<u>Open</u>		<span>ɑ</span>	

Notes:

- /i/ has been variously described as:

Sema	
<span><i>Sümi</i></span> ( <i>Naga</i> )	
Pronunciation	<span>[sɨ̃ɪ miɭ]</span>
Native to	India
Region	Nagaland
Ethnicity	Sumi Naga
<div>Native speakers</div>	350,000 <span> </span> (2011 census) <sup>[1]</sup>
<div><span>Language family</span></div>	<div>Sino-Tibetan <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li> Angami–Pochuri<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>Sema</b></li></ul></li></ul></div>
Language codes	
<span>ISO 639-3</span>	nsm
Glottolog	sumi1235 <span> </span> (http://glottolog.org/resource/language/id/sumi1235) <sup>[2]</sup>

- Near-close front unrounded [ɪ];<sup>[7]</sup>
- Close front unrounded [i].<sup>[8]</sup>
- /ɨ/ has been variously described as:
  - Near-close central unrounded [ɨ];<sup>[7]</sup>
  - Close central unrounded [ɨ].<sup>[9]</sup>
- In word-medial position, /ɨ/ can be realized as mid central unrounded [ə].<sup>[5][9]</sup>
- /u/ is close back rounded [u].<sup>[7][9]</sup>
- The mid vowels /e, o/ can be realized as either close-mid [e, o] or open-mid [ɛ, ɔ].<sup>[5][8]</sup>
  - Teo (2012) describes the close-mid allophone of /o/ as slightly advanced [ɔ̟].<sup>[7]</sup>
- /a/ has been variously described as:
  - Near-open central unrounded [ə];<sup>[7]</sup>
  - Open central unrounded [ä].<sup>[9]</sup>
- After uvular stops, /a/ can be realized as open back unrounded [ɑ].<sup>[9]</sup>



Monophthongs of Sema, from Teo (2012:368)

## Consonants

The consonants of Sema are as follows<sup>[6][10]</sup> (allophones that are represented in the orthographic system are given in parentheses):

		Bilabial	Labiodental	Alveolar	Postalveolar	Palatal	Velar	Uvular	Glottal
Nasal	plain	<u>m</u>		<u>n</u>			ŋ		
	aspirated	m <sup>h</sup>		n <sup>h</sup>					
Plosive	voiceless	<u>p</u>		<u>t</u>			<u>k</u>	<u>q</u>	
	aspirated	p <sup>h</sup>		t <sup>h</sup>			k <sup>h</sup>	q <sup>h</sup>	
	voiced	<u>b</u>		<u>d</u>			g		
Affricate	voiceless			(ts)	(tʃ)				
	aspirated			(ts <sup>h</sup> )	tʃ <sup>h</sup>				
Fricative	voiceless		<u>f</u>	(s)	ʃ		<u>x</u>		<u>h</u>
	voiced		<u>v</u>	(z)	ʒ		ʁ		
Approximant	central	plain	(w)	<u>ɹ</u>		j			
				<u>l</u>					
	lateral	aspirated			l <sup>h</sup>				

## References

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5. Teo (2012), p. 369.
6. Teo (2014), p. 20.
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8. Teo (2014), p. 27.
9. Teo (2014), p. 28.
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